

er and bolter associations. Under any circumstances, an event like this commemorative would be full of admonition. Its influence, not merely upon the streets and contentions of every day life, but upon the popular opinion, the tone and party spirit, could not fail to impress upon us the old repeated but too seldom heed of lesson of the vanity of earth and of our deep and solemn responsibility to that power in whose hands the destiny of men and of nations alike are placed.

At a period like the present, however, in the history of our country,

"When in our fathers' yet green graves,

The war of our fathers' yet green graves,

When the heart of the nation is filled with

appreciation for the continuance of our cherished institutions,

when the last home of Liberty in this Western

Continent is threatened with annihilation—the

occurrence of such an event is filled with deeper

and more solemn warning. For now three-quarters

of a century our Union has been preserved in the

purity of its patriotism and the integrity of its

institutions. Passing, as we have done, through

foreign contentions, and through a diversity of

internal policy, the natural incident of a form of

government where the popular opinion is the law,

and where the freedom of that opinion lies at the

foundation of our political system, we had attained a

point of stability which no assaults from abroad

could reach or peril. Extending, as we had done,

our dominion over an almost boundless territory,

we had found ourselves proportionately strengthened

in the attachment and fidelity of our people.

An occasional whispering of resistance to the

policy of the Government had, it is true, been heard,

but it was as an effectual protest, the response

by the loyalty of our people to their loved and

cherished Union. But at length the howlings of

fanaticism and the threatenings of treason broke

upon our ears, and the Union of the States was

threatened with disruption. At such a period was

the lamented TAYLOR called to the administration

of our Executive Government. With the single

purpose of preserving the Union unimpaired, he

had entered upon his high and arduous task. In the

representative of the American people he had declared

that "whatever dangers might threaten it, he

should stand at its head and maintain it in its integrity,

to the full extent of the obligations imposed and the

power conferred upon him by the Constitution." That

he would have deemed this pledge as abundantly

attested by a long life, devoted wholly to

the service and the honor of his country.

Standing then, as we do, around his tomb, is it

inappropriate on our part to vindicate his holy

purpose by pledging ourselves to each other and to

our country, to rebuke the spirit of fanaticism which

would endanger our institutions—if need be, to

cast aside the associations of party, and rising

above every consideration but that of duty to our

country, to stand shoulder to shoulder, in the spirit

of concession in which it is now possible in prosper-

ing and defending the Union we are emphatically

invited by the dying words of our lamented chief—

"I am prepared—I have endeavored to do my duty."

And if anything further were wanting to inspire

us with courage and zeal in its execution, it is to

be found in his long life of self-denying sacrifices,

of faithful and disinterested service, in the de-

fense of the Union, and in the honor of his country.

In the midst of such a career, it is eminently

fitting that he should be remembered by the

recurrence to the leading events which have marked

the career of the departed patriot. In doing so,

neither the occasion nor the time necessarily

allotted to this portion of the exercises of the day,

will permit anything more than a brief and imper-

fect allusion to the prominent incidents of his life,

and to the patriotic purposes which, without any

exception, have marked his long and brilliant

career.

ZACHARY TAYLOR was born in Orange county,

Virginia, in the year 1784. Descended as he was

from revolutionary stock, his father having been

a Colonel in the Continental Army, and having fought

by the side of Washington at the battle of Trenton,

and entering upon the stage of life, if not in

the midst of the revolution, at least in the midst

of the stirring scenes which followed it, he was

from his infancy imbued with those principles,

the maintenance of which had led to the indepen-

dence of his country. At the age of six years he

emigrated with his family to Kentucky, and taking

up his home in the midst of hostile Indian tribes,

he became familiar, from his earliest infancy, with

the gleam of the tomahawk and the yell of the

savage. In the midst of such a career, it is emi-

nently fitting that he should be remembered by the

recurrence to the leading events which have marked

the career of the departed patriot. In doing so,

neither the occasion nor the time necessarily

1840, when he resigned it, and was ordered to the

command of the First Department of the Southern

Division of the Army. General TAYLOR was com-

paratively unknown to the country. A wide interval

had elapsed between the early events of his life,

and those of a more recent period, and the latter

were confined to a remote district, attracting little

more than official notice. His distinction, great as

it was, was rather of a local than a national char-

acter. But it was not destined so to remain. In the

language of one of his biographers, "his high moral

character, his noble and disinterested spirit, his

movements had attracted the attention of the

people, to affect the fate of empire, to attract

the attention of mankind, and to become a portion

of history."

During this portion of his public service, the

relations between our country and Mexico, arising

from the proposed incorporation of the Republic

of Texas into our Union, were beginning to assume

a portentous character. In anticipation of a collision

between the two nations Gen. TAYLOR, in 1845,

was ordered to place the forces under his command

in such a position as might enable him to act at

any moment and efficiently in the defense of Texas.

Afterward to take up a position on the Rio Grande.

The events which subsequently occurred, pre-

ceding the happening of the threatened collision,

need not be referred to. They are a portion of the

history of our country, with which all are familiar.

It is enough to say that a state of war between the

United States and Mexico was recognized by our

Government, and that in this emergency General

TAYLOR occupied the post of Commander of our

forces. From this moment the measure of his fame

was full.

I have adverted to the incidents in his life which

preceded this period with more particularity than

is necessary in respect to those which follow with

an unexampled rapidity and brilliancy. Were I

able to do so, I would not attempt to recount the

events which within the next few months were

destined to render his name immortal, and to stamp

a deathless renown upon the arms of our country.

Who, then, even of the youngest among us,

that does not remember, as if it were of yesterday,

the thrill of anxiety with which, throughout the

whole breadth of our country, the eyes of all were

fixed upon our little army and its gallant leader on

his march from Point Isabel, and the brave and

valiant march from every hostile and every tongue,

as the tidings of his victories, heralded in on all sides in

the language of triumph, and the shout of joy, who

has forgotten the dread of anticipation which pervaded

our land only to be succeeded by an universal glow

of joy, when broke upon the ear the immortal

triumph of Buena Vista! Who does not realize, with

all the vividness of the present scene, the boldness,

the bravery, the self-denying sacrifices, and not

least of all, the humanity of the victor, who re-

spectfully and gratefully acknowledged the

services of the brave and valiant foe, the Ameri-

can people behold the exhibition not only of every

quality which can ennoble the soldier, but of every

trait which dignifies and adorns the man. Gen.

TAYLOR was not only brave and daring in the field,

but he was modest, retiring, and humane. In the

midst of his proudest triumphs, the simplicity of his

character was not his least remarkable trait. In

recognition of his victories, he was unassuming almost

to effacement. It was enough for him that he had

done his duty; and when that duty was ended, he

returned like Cincinnatus to his farm, apparently

with no other desire than to devote the remainder

of his life to retirement and repose. But in this

purpose he was not permitted to indulge. The

hearts of his countrymen beat high with gratitude,

and it was not long before the highest trust within

their gift was tendered to him. He was called to

be the chief of the nation, and he was called to

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funeral procession of Gen. Taylor presented yester-

day. Beloved by the whole people, mourned by

the whole people, it seemed as if the whole people

turned out to do him reverence. The wide streets

of the city were filled with the people, and the

block or two from the procession, were as silent

as if unattended, while every point in the line

which offered the advantage of a slight was occu-

pled. It was late at night, nearly midnight in fact,

before the drum beat and homeward march ceased.

It was, indeed, a DAY OF MOURNING. May we

never see its like again.

Anti-Sectarian Convention.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

Oswego, Friday, July 13, 1850.

FRIEND GREELEY: The Anti-Sectarian Con-

vention, which has been in session in this city during

the past two days, closed its labors about mid-

night last night.

The Convention assembled on Wednesday morn-

ing (13th inst) at 10 o'clock, in the Second Presby-

terian Church in this city. The following officers

were chosen:

President—REV. LINDON KING, Fall, Oswego Co.

First Vice—BENJAMIN FINE, Rochester, Monroe Co.

Second Vice—J. B. FOWLER, Oswego.

Secretary—REV. MR. RANDOLPH, Oswego, and W. B.

FULLER, Pennsylvania.

A Business Committee, consisting of Gerrit

Smith, Samuel J. May and Asa B. Wing, was ap-

pointed to prepare a series of resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the spirit of Jesus Christ is a meek,

lowly, holy, harmless, undefiled, forgiving, brother-

ly, courteous, self-forgetting, self-sacrificing, and

loving spirit, which is the true and only basis of

any true and lasting union of Christians, and that

any union of Christians which is not based upon

the love of Jesus Christ, is not a union of Chris-

tians, and that any union of Christians which is

not based upon the love of Jesus Christ, is not a

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CITY ITEMS.

Tuesday, July 23.

THE THIRTEENTH BLOCK—We are indebted to our

friend Jereh Ball, census-taker of the Fourth Ward,

for a synopsis of his returns from the block includ-

ing the Tribune office, Tammany Hall, &c. bound-

ed by Chatham, Spruce, William and Frankfort

streets. The results are as follows:

No. of houses occupied as dwellings..... 22

No. of families living therein..... 319

No. of inhabitants..... 1,419

Under 5 years old, 24; over 5, and under 10, 23; under 10,

and over 15, 24; under 20, 24; under 25, 24; under 30,

and over 35, 24; under 40, 24; under 45, 2